

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-20. (Canceled).

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ischemic disease of heart or extremities in a patient in need thereof, comprising:

intramuscularly administering to a patient suffering from said ischemic disease, an effective amount of a composition comprising Hepatocyte Growth Factor (HGF) as an active ingredient,

wherein the composition is transported to, distributed in, and acts on tissues that are local to or around the region of administration ~~The method according to claim 16,~~ wherein a maximum concentration of said composition in the blood, liver and kidney is a hundredth or less, and a concentration in said muscle is at least 50 times greater than when said composition is administered by intravenous bolus administration, and

wherein the composition has reduced transportation to, distribution in, and effect in blood or bodily organs other than those that are local to said region of administration, thereby treating said ischemic disease of heart or extremities.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ischemic disease of heart or extremities in a patient in need thereof, comprising:

intramuscularly administering to a patient suffering from said ischemic disease, an effective amount of a composition comprising Hepatocyte Growth Factor (HGF) as an active ingredient,

wherein the composition is transported to, distributed in, and acts on tissues that are local to or around the region of administration ~~The method according to claim 16,~~ wherein AUC in the blood, liver and kidney is a fifth or less, and AUC in said muscle is at least 50 times greater than when said composition is administered by intravenous bolus administration, and

wherein the composition has reduced transportation to, distribution in, and effect in blood or bodily organs other than those that are local to said region of administration,

thereby treating said ischemic disease of heart or extremities.

Claims 23-25. (Canceled).

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ischemic disease of heart or extremities in a patient in need thereof, comprising:

intramuscularly administering to a patient suffering from said ischemic disease, an effective amount of a composition comprising Hepatocyte Growth Factor (HGF) as an active ingredient,

wherein the composition is transported to, distributed in, and acts on tissues that are local to or around the region of administration and wherein said composition is administered at a dose of ~~The method according to claim 25, wherein said dose is 0.1~~ to 10 µg/kg, and

wherein the composition has reduced transportation to, distribution in, and effect in blood or bodily organs other than those that are local to said region of administration,

thereby treating said ischemic disease of heart or extremities.

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Claims 27-29. (Canceled).